

Hello,

I am writing regarding S.B. 946 and the Governor's proposed changes to the state's liquor laws. I urge you to oppose the Governor's proposed changes to minimum bottle pricing, quantity discounts and retailer hours of operation. I base my opposition on the following:

1. Minimum bottle pricing guarantees a stable, predictable sales tax revenue stream for the state, and it ensures a level playing field for all stores in the state. Gross sales numbers, and therefore tax revenues, could actually decrease as a result of eliminating minimum bottle pricing.
2. Liquor retailers in the state already buy in quantity from the wholesalers to receive a discount. But, it's based on the amount of time before the product is available again from the wholesalers at a reduced price, e.g. 30 days, 60 days, etc. It is not based on the amount of product purchased. All retailers currently have access to the same case price. Changing to quantity discounts will favor large stores and put smaller stores at a distinct disadvantage, and could actually force consumers to pay higher prices or drive longer distances to larger stores.
3. The number of consumers of alcoholic beverages in the state will not grow simply because the products can be purchased at later times during the week and on Sundays. Gross sales will remain the same and simply be spread out over more hours. This has already proven to be the case with Sunday sales. The promised windfall in additional sales tax revenue has not materialized. It's basically the same figure spread out over seven days, not six.

The state of Connecticut has serious budget issues with which to contend. Legislation that could actually put retailers out of business and cause job losses for delivery drivers, sales and administrative staff at wholesalers, etc. is the wrong way to address the budget concerns.

If Governor Malloy wants to reduce prices for consumers, why not propose an end to tax on alcohol sales and the excise tax on wholesalers? These current proposals are not about reducing prices and stimulating competition. This is about giving an unfair advantage to large corporations. Please protect small business in Connecticut.

Regards,
Michael Shuler
Owner
Windsor Package Store
3700 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06614
Ph: 203.378.5582